

Chicago Architect

How Chicago Architects Are Leading the Way on Airport Design // 32

+ A Retrospective and a Look Forward:
Cynthia Weese, FAIA, Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient in Conversation with Emily Ray, AIA, Dublin Family Young Architect Award Recipient // 26



WHERE ELEGANCE MEETS ENTRYWAYS

Upgrade to Sierra Pacific. There are more expensive windows. But none more impressive.

Chicago Design Center - 2445 E Higgins Rd. | Elk Grove Village | 847-262-5907



www.SierraPacificWindows.com | P.O. Box 8489, Red Bluff, CA 96080 | 800-824-7744 | A Division of



SIERRA
PACIFIC
INDUSTRIES



Scan the QR code to see more amazing projects from Sierra Pacific Windows

PROJECT The Pullman
National Monument,
Chicago, IL.

DESIGN Site Design
Group Ltd.

PRODUCT Square and
Permeable Plank Pavers
with Series® finish.



Your CREATION

Our TEAMWORK

Our team of Unilock hardscaping experts are ready to support your next unit paving project from start to finish.

Combine our technical expertise with a vast array of Unilock colors, shapes and textures, to bring your unique vision to life.

[UNILOCK.COM](https://www.unilock.com) | 1-800-UNILOCK



CONTACT US
FOR SAMPLES,
INFORMATION,
& CEU SEMINARS

UNILOCK®
TRANSFORMING HARDSCAPES

high-performance facade materials

learn more



info.usa@equitone.com
www.equitone.com

 **EQUITONE**

Chicago Architect

Editor in Chief

Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA
editor@aiachicago.org

Managing Editor

Dillon Goodson, Affil. AIA Chicago
editor@aiachicago.org

Editor

David Cordaro, Assoc. AIA
communications@aiachicago.org

Drew Clark

drewc@innovativepublishing.com

Designer

Raaya Cummings
raaya@innovativepublishing.com

Advertising Sales

Innovative Publishing
advertise@innovativepublishing.com
844.423.7272



Chicago Architect, an outreach tool of AIA Chicago, is published four times a year as an authoritative resource for architects, the larger design community, and the public about architecture and related issues of interest to Chicago architects. The magazine communicates industry trends, the value of high-quality design, and the role of AIA Chicago and its members in the world of architecture.

- facebook.com/aiachicago
@aiachicago
x.com/aiachicago
youtube.com/@aiachicago1869
linkedin.com/company/aia-chicago

Dear Members and Friends,

Early in the new year, we gathered AIA Chicago presidents from the past 20 years for an afternoon of conversation. A tradition begun by **Drew Deering, FAIA**, 2022 president, and **Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA**, executive director, the gathering has become an important means of sharing knowledge and experiences, while also evaluating the state of the profession today and planning for tomorrow. 2023 President **Mindy Viamontes, AIA**, led the meeting and asked each past president to reflect on their time spent leading the chapter and the needs of our members in the future.

The past presidents' gathering coincided with the conclusion of the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan and the kickoff of the new 2024-2026 Strategic Plan. The impact of this road map has been transformative for the chapter. Among the 80-plus separate goals in the 2021-2023 plan, here are several key outcomes and initiatives we accomplished:

Education: A strong and renewed group of 20-plus Knowledge Communities and Affinity Groups are collaborating on innovative programs and also benefiting from strengthened staff roles and clearer workflow to support their efforts. A new annual volunteer fair provides a pipeline for new committee members to more easily connect with the chapter.

Communications: The first new website in 14 years, a new member database, and a robust social media strategy have led to deeper member engagement across all platforms. A new People's Choice Award — followed by an annual exhibition at the Chicago Architecture Center — has engaged 4,000-plus voters and hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans through TV segments highlighting members' work to the public.

Advocacy: The chapter's forward-looking EDI Committee developed, launched, and beta-tested an anti-racism pledge and pay equity toolkit with a deeply invested cohort of 13 architecture firms. In addition, a newly developed decarbonization award has raised the bar of sustainable design excellence.

Membership: A new firm ambassador program has reengaged firms with the chapter and led to new lines of communication. Associate membership, for those who are not yet licensed, is at its highest level in more than 15 years.

Development: We launched a new partner program, the 1869Circle, which recognizes those companies supporting AIA Chicago at the highest levels with unprecedented exposure and recognition at all 100-plus events throughout the year. This has led to more financial predictability and new sponsors.

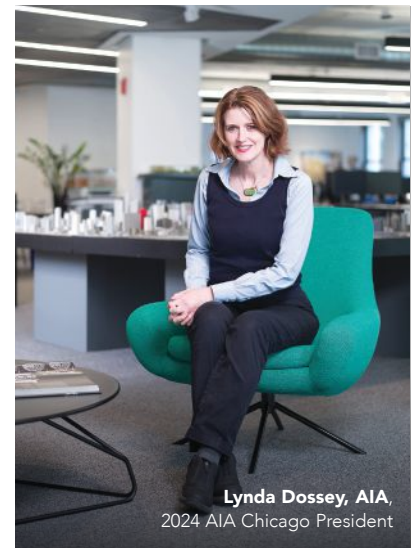
Organizational structure: AIA Chicago and the AIA Chicago Foundation signed a new memorandum of understanding outlining the relationship between the two organizations and the ways in which the chapter supports the Foundation's charitable mission and vision.

As we envision the next three years of the chapter's future, we are grateful for you and all our 4,000-plus members who have made the chapter what it is today. Many thanks to the hundreds of you who completed the member survey and shared your thoughts, needs, and aspirations as we develop the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan. Although the survey is closed, our ears are still open.

As I reflect on the gathering of past presidents in January, what struck me most was that nearly everyone, including myself, could point to another person around the table who encouraged them to step into a leadership role in the chapter. In big or small ways, I encourage you to consider ways in which you, too, might become more involved with AIA Chicago in the coming year, either by attending a new program or event, mentoring another member, or serving on a committee or task force.

We need your voice, your vision, and your involvement in shaping the future of our profession.

Lynda Dossey, AIA
2024 AIA Chicago President
president@aiachicago.org



Lynda Dossey, AIA,
2024 AIA Chicago President

A Bold Classic in Modern Metal



AI Generated



NEW BOARD AND BATTEN

The Board and Batten panel system provides a timeless design aesthetic with the proven durability of metal. It uses a concealed fastener system to maintain clean lines and a rhythmic pattern of alternating wide vertical boards and narrower elevated battens. Explore the possibilities with this versatile tool for architectural creativity.

Learn more



[PAC-CLAD.COM](https://www.pac-clad.com) | 800 PAC CLAD



Contents

A Retrospective and a Look Forward: Cynthia Weese, FAIA, Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient in Conversation with Emily Ray, AIA, Dubin Family Young Architect Award Recipient // 26



Cynthia Weese, FAIA (right), recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, sharing the original floor plans of the Chicago City Day School with Emily Ray, AIA (left), recipient of the Dubin Family Young Architect Award.

TARA WHITE/HAPPY HOUR COLLABORATIVE

Features



32

America's Aging Airports Are Undergoing a Transformation. Chicago Architects Are Leading the Way.



40

Behind the Screens: Grant C. Uhlir, FAIA

Departments

- 11 // Chapter Report
- 16 // AIA Chicago Foundation Report
- 19 // AIA Illinois Update
- 20 // People + Projects

OUR PREVIOUS ISSUE

is available to view digitally at www.aiachicago.org/chicagoarchitect

ON THE COVER

Chicago O'Hare International Airport Terminal 5 Expansion by HOK and Muller & Muller Ltd.

Image by Nic Lehoux

2024 AIA CHICAGO DIRECTORY

CHICAGO ARCHITECT
EDITOR IN CHIEF
Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA

MANAGING EDITOR
Dillon Goodson,
Affil. AIA Chicago

EDITORS
David Cordaro, Assoc. AIA
Drew Clark

DESIGNER
Raaya Cummings

AIA CHICAGO 2024
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PRESIDENT
Lynda Dossey, AIA

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/
PRESIDENT-ELECT**
Jason Golub, AIA

PAST PRESIDENT
Mindy Viamontes, AIA

VICE PRESIDENT, ADVOCACY
Natalie Hicks, AIA

VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION
Chey Taylor, AIA

VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE
Calli Verkamp, AIA

**VICE PRESIDENT, HONOR
AND AWARDS**
Peter Wojtowicz, AIA

VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP
Kelly Moynihan, AIA

VICE PRESIDENT, SPONSORSHIP
Julie Hacker, FAIA

DIRECTOR
Sara Beardsley, FAIA
Susan Brain, AIA
Lori Day, AIA
Richie Hands, AIA, NOMA
Jessie LaFree, AIA, NCARB
Josh Mings, AIA
Ashlen Williams, AIA, NOMA

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Noor Ain, Assoc. AIA
Eve Fineman, Assoc. AIA

AFFILIATE DIRECTOR
Albert Mena, PE, SE,
Affil. AIA Chicago
Eric Singer, Affil. AIA Chicago

STUDENT DIRECTOR
Fima Ivanov, AIAS, UIC
Zahid Shari, AIAS, SAIC
Emily Yeow, AIAS, IIT

AIA CHICAGO FOUNDATION
2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PRESIDENT
Christopher E. Chweddyk, AIA

VICE PRESIDENT
Danielle J. Tillman, AIA, NOMA

SECRETARY
Gracia Maria Shiffrin, FAIA

TREASURER
Walter D. Street III, AIA, NOMA

PAST PRESIDENT
Chris-Annmarie Spencer, AIA, NOMA

TRUSTEE
Susan Conger-Austin, AIA
Elliott E. Dudnik, FAIA
Palmyra Geraki, AIA
Kerl LaJeune, Assoc. AIA, NOMA
Julia Mosqueda, Assoc. AIA
Gina (JinHwa) Paradowicz, AIA
Lynette Stuhlmacher, Assoc. AIA
P.K. "Trish" VanderBeke, AIA

PUBLIC TRUSTEE
Roberta M. Feldman, PhD
Mary K. Woolever

EX-OFFICIO, AIA CHICAGO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA

EX-OFFICIO, AIA CHICAGO
**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT,
PRESIDENT-ELECT**
Jason Golub, AIA

2024 KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITIES
ARCHITECTURE FOR JUSTICE
Ryan Rohlf, AIA, co-chair

BUILDING ENCLOSURE COUNCIL
Brian Rouse, chair

COTE + 2030 COMMITMENT
Daniel Jaconetti, AIA, 2030 co-chair
Kelly Moynihan, AIA, co-chair
David Swain, AIA, co-chair

CUSTOM RESIDENTIAL
ARCHITECTS NETWORK (CRAN)
Nate Lielasus, AIA, co-chair
Mike Shively, AIA, co-chair

DESIGN
Lori Day, AIA, co-chair
Ann Erskine, AIA, events
David Lillie, AIA, events
Angelica Paleczny, AIA, events

DESIGN FOR AGING
Drew Roskos, AIA, co-chair
Heidi Wang, AIA, co-chair

EDUCATION
Kysa Heinitz, AIA, co-chair
Cory Kamholz, AIA, co-chair

HEALTHCARE
Cam Twohey, AIA, co-chair
Adrienne Erbesti, AIA, secretary

HISTORIC RESOURCES
Greg Maxwell, AIA, co-chair
Andrea Sforza, AIA, co-chair

HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Josh Mings, AIA
David Kennedy, AIA
Cristian Yugsi, Assoc. AIA

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE
Susan Brain, AIA, PMP, co-chair
Charles Cunov, AIA, co-chair

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
Scott Steffes, AIA, chair

TECHNICAL ISSUES
David Babnigg, AIA, co-chair
Lee Fink, AIA, co-chair
David Hillsamer, AIA, co-chair
Albert Mena, PE, SE,
Affil. AIA Chicago, co-chair
Calli Verkamp, AIA, co-chair
Cassandra Yeom, AIA, co-chair

TECHNOLOGY IN ARCHITECTURAL
PRACTICE (TAP)
Katy Liang, AIA, co-chair
Darya Stefanovic, AIA, co-chair

2024 AFFINITY GROUPS
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
AND ARCHITECTS IN SCHOOLS
Ian Miley, AIA, co-chair
Erin Sanchez, AIA, co-chair
David Sikorski, AIA, co-chair

EDI COMMITTEE
Riya Desai, Assoc. AIA, co-chair
Katie Hart, Assoc. AIA, co-chair

LGBTQIA+ ALLIANCE
Kerry Frank, AIA, co-chair
Hao Phung, Assoc. AIA, co-chair

SMALL FIRM EXCHANGE (SFX)
Matthew Clapper, AIA, co-chair
Chyanne Husar, AIA, co-chair
Frank Michalski, AIA,

YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM (YAF)
Raquel Guzman Geara, AIA, co-chair
Lena Reiff, AIA, co-chair

2024 EDITORIAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Spencer Blaney, AIA
Stuart Cohen, FAIA
Nicole Ellis Semple, AIA
Eve Fineman, Assoc. AIA
Daniel Gillen, AIA
Helen Kessler, FAIA
Reed Kroloff
Maria Laguarda-Mallo, PhD, Assoc. AIA
Max Lapthorne
Thomas Leslie, FAIA
Deon Lucas, AIA
Sarah Polster
Walter Street III, AIA
John Svertsen, FAIA

CHAPTER STAFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF MEMBER
RESOURCES AND ADVOCACY
Joan Pomaranc,
Hon. AIA Chicago

DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH
Allison Garwood Freedland

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP
AND DATA ANALYTICS
Steve Riforgiato

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
AND SALES
Kirstin Osgood

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
David Cordaro, Assoc. AIA

SENIOR COORDINATOR,
PROGRAMS AND EVENTS
Madison Young

**FINANCIAL MANAGER/
BOOKKEEPER**
Naghm Sabah

**MANAGING EDITOR/
AWARDS ADVISOR**
Dillon Goodson,
Affil. AIA Chicago

CONTRIBUTORS



IMAGE BY ANJALI PINTO

Taylor Moore is a journalist and writer in Chicago who specializes in investigative journalism and feature writing, documenting hidden histories, subverted narratives, broken systems, and people fighting for change. Find her profile of architects Cynthia Weese, FAIA, and Emily Ray, AIA, on page 26.



IMAGE BY ANGELA GARBOT PHOTOGRAPHY

Dillon Goodson, Affil. AIA Chicago, is the managing editor of *Chicago Architect* and advises AIA Chicago's signature award programs. He has spent more than 15 years working to advance places that are more just and joyous, better resourced, and loved. Find his article on how Chicago firms are transforming American airports on page 32.



OPTIM-R



Up to 5x greater thermal efficiency

Get higher efficiency with less material thickness for your re-roofing projects. Ultra-thin VIP Kingspan® OPTIM-R® rigid insulation performs at an R-value of R28 and R57 (1" & 2").

Learn more at lessmeansmore.kingspaninsulation.us
or contact our local sales team at (312) 877-3695



Canyon Blend Split/Tumbled
with Pitched Faces,
Shown with Reconstructed
Stone™ Wall Panels and
Waterables

THE BEAUTY OF NATURAL
STONE WITH ADDED BENEFITS

CHAPEL STONE[®] MASONRY WALL

Chapel Stone[®] Masonry Wall is a versatile and attractive option for designers seeking the aesthetic appeal of natural stone with added benefits. With a library of over 3,800 custom colors, several finishes and various height and length options, the designer's creative vision becomes a beautiful reality.



GCCS1005
SPLIT



GCCS1006
SPLIT



GCM1008
SPLIT/TUMBLED



AIA Chicago Membership Elects New 2024 Board of Directors

Composed of accomplished leaders with deep expertise, this distinguished group brings diverse perspectives and a variety of leadership qualifications to the Board of Directors at AIA Chicago.

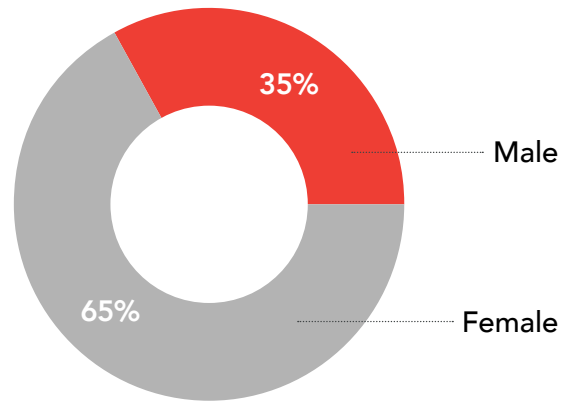
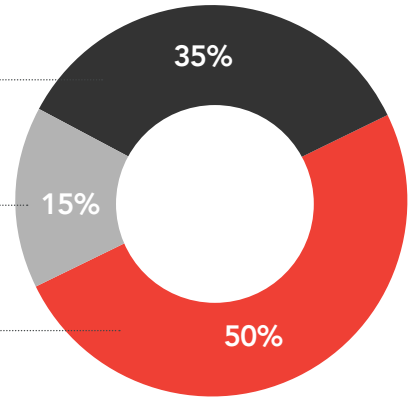
Nominated by the Board of Directors Nominating Committee, approved by the 2023 Board of Directors, and voted upon by the membership of the chapter, the 2024 AIA Chicago Board of Directors stands ready to serve the architectural community, provide strategic guidance, ensure strong governance, and establish the chapter for long-term prosperity.

Of the Board of Directors, **65 percent identify as female** (up from 57 percent in 2023 and 48 percent in 2022), and **38 percent serve as firm owners or executives** within their offices. **35 percent** identify as descending from minority populations. Three individuals are from small-sized firms (1-9 people) (down from five in 2023); seven from medium-sized firms (10-49 people) (up from five in 2023); and 10 are from large-sized firms (50-plus people) (equal to 2023).

Medium-Sized Firm
10-49

Small-Sized Firm
1-9

Large-Sized Firm
50-plus



PRESIDENT
Lynda Dossey, AIA
Principal, Jahn/



**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT,
PRESIDENT-ELECT**
Jason Golub, AIA
Vice President,
Ware Malcomb



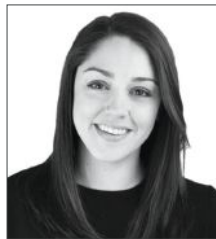
PAST PRESIDENT
Mindy Viamontes, AIA
Partner/Owner,
M Viamontes Architects



**VICE PRESIDENT,
ADVOCACY**
Natalie Hicks, AIA
Associate, RATIO



**VICE PRESIDENT,
EDUCATION**
Chey Taylor, AIA
Senior Associate,
SMNG A Ltd.



**VICE PRESIDENT,
FINANCE**
Calli Verkamp, AIA
Architect, Wheeler
Kearns Architects



**VICE PRESIDENT,
MEMBERSHIP**
Kelly Moynihan, AIA
Principal, HPZS



**VICE PRESIDENT,
SPONSORSHIP**
Julie Hacker, FAIA
Partner, Stuart Cohen
& Julie Hacker
Architects LLC



**VICE PRESIDENT,
HONORS AND
AWARDS**
Peter Wojtowicz, AIA
Senior Associate,
Valerio Dewalt Train

CHAPTER REPORT



DIRECTOR
Sara Beardsley, FAIA
 Associate Principal,
 SCB



DIRECTOR
Susan Brain, AIA
 Associate, Senior
 Interior Project
 Manager, Perkins&Will



**ASSOCIATE
 DIRECTOR**
Noor Ain, Assoc. AIA
 Assistant Project
 Manager/Cost
 Manager, Gardiner and
 Theobald



**ASSOCIATE
 DIRECTOR**
**Eve Fineman,
 Assoc. AIA**
 Director of
 Exhibitions, Chicago
 Architecture Center



DIRECTOR
Lori Day, AIA
 Design Principal, JGMA



DIRECTOR
**Richie Hands,
 AIA, NOMA**
 Senior Associate,
 Lamar Johnson
 Collaborative



AFFILIATE DIRECTOR
**Albert Mena, PE, SE,
 Affil. AIA Chicago**
 Principal + Central
 Sector Manager,
 TYLin | Silman
 Structural Solutions



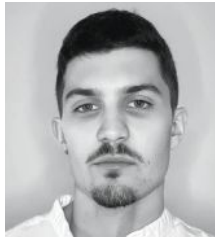
AFFILIATE DIRECTOR
**Eric Singer, Affil.
 AIA Chicago**
 Partner, Ice Miller, LLP



DIRECTOR
**Jessie LaFree,
 AIA, NCARB**
 Senior Manager, SPACE
 Architecture + Planning



DIRECTOR
Josh Mings, AIA
 Founder and Principal,
 Aggregate Studio



STUDENT DIRECTOR
**Fima Ivanov, Student
 AIA Chicago, AIAS**
 University of Illinois
 at Chicago



STUDENT DIRECTOR
**Zahid Shariff, Student
 AIA Chicago, AIAS**
 School of the Art
 Institute of Chicago



STUDENT DIRECTOR
**Emily Yeow, Student
 AIA Chicago, AIAS**
 Illinois Institute
 of Technology



DIRECTOR
**Ashlen Williams, AIA,
 NOMA**
 Architect, KOO LLC

The 2024 Nominating Committee was composed of the following individuals:

Lynda Dossey, AIA – President-Elect 2023,
 AIA Chicago
Mindy Viamontes, AIA – President 2023,
 AIA Chicago
Drew Deering, FAIA – Past President 2023,
 AIA Chicago
Justin Banda, Assoc. AIA – Past Director,
 AIA Chicago

Mary Brush, FAIA – Past President, AIA Illinois
Laura Fisher, FAIA – Past President
Jason Pugh, AIA – Immediate Past President,
 NOMA National; ACE Mentor Board of Directors
Ingedia Sanchez, AIA – Immediate Past
 President, Arquitectos
Elizabeth Schneider, AIA – President, Chicago
 Women in Architecture



From top left: Student Award recipients in attendance, including Tasmia Kamal, Moid Ali, and Bryan Cruz Lopez (recipients of the Chicago Award in Architecture) and Jamia Smith (recipient of the Diversity Scholarship). Peter Wojtowicz, AIA (right), congratulating Abraham Lacy (left) of Far South Community Development Corporation, with Susan Benjamin (center); Lacy and Benjamin are honorees of the 2023 Distinguished Service Award, alongside Maya Bird-Murphy (not pictured). Maureen Durack, consultant at Executive Service Corps (ESC), honoree of the 2023 Presidential Citation. Recipients of the Distinguished Service Award and Presidential Citation (left to right, back row): AIA Chicago Executive Director **Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA**; Vice President of Honors and Awards **Peter Wojtowicz, AIA**; and 2023 President **Mindy Viamontes, AIA**; (front row) honorees of the Distinguished Service Award Susan Benjamin, Maya Bird-Murphy, and Abraham Lacy; honoree of the Presidential Citation Maureen Durack. Recipient of the 2023 AIA Chicago Foundation Diversity Scholarship Jamia Smith, alongside Foundation Trustee **Gina (JinHwa) Paradowicz, AIA**. Guests viewing the new AIA Chicago Lerch Bates People's Choice Awards gallery in the Chicago Architecture Center.

Networking, Inspiration, and Holiday Joy: AIA Chicago, AIA Chicago Foundation, and Partner Organizations Host Festive Gathering


Together with Arquitina, Arquitectos, the Chicago Architecture Center, Chicago Women in Architecture, and the Illinois Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (I-NOMA), the second annual Building Together Awards Ceremony and Holiday Open House was a resounding success, bringing together more than 200 professionals from across the industry for a night of celebration and connection.

Thank you to our event sponsors: Lead sponsor Pac-Clad Petersen; Supporter sponsors NORCON Inc. and Stantec; and Friend sponsors B&Z Electrical Contractors Inc., Lightning Protection Institute, and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

➔ To view the full photo gallery, visit www.aiachicago.org/holidayopenhouse2023.

Celebrating Leadership and Impact: AIA Chicago Celebrates 2023 Distinguished Service Award and Presidential Citation Honorees



Last December, AIA Chicago proudly announced the recipients of its 2023 Distinguished Service Awards: Susan Benjamin of Benjamin Historic Certifications, Maya Bird-Murphy of Mobile Makers, and Abraham Lacy of the Far South Community Development Corporation. Recognized for their outstanding contributions to Chicago’s built environment, these individuals and organizations demonstrate unwavering dedication to architectural excellence, advocacy, and community engagement. Benjamin champions historic preservation, Bird-Murphy empowers youth through design education, and Lacy tackles inequities through innovative development practices. Their diverse yet impactful work embodies the spirit of AIA Chicago’s mission and paves the way for a brighter future for our city. The chapter also announced the award of the 2023 Presidential Citation, on behalf of 2023 President **Mindy Viamontes, AIA**, to Maureen Durack of Executive Service Corps (ESC) in recognition of her exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to the chapter’s mission. Her collaborative spirit and impactful initiatives exemplify the highest ideals of AIA Chicago and pave the way for a more inclusive and vibrant built environment for all. 

From top left: Susan Benjamin, Maya Bird-Murphy, Abraham Lacy, and Maureen Durack.



CALL FOR ENTRIES

THE 2024 EXCELLENCE IN MASONRY ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS



A Showcase of Unprecedented Architectural Achievement

Categories include:

- Single Family Housing
 - Multi-Family Housing
 - Governmental
 - Industrial/Commercial
 - Religious
 - Educational
 - Contemporary/Rehab
 - Healthcare/Scientific
 - Miscellaneous
- New this year:**
- Rainscreen
 - Interior Masonry



1440 Renaissance Drive
Suite 340
Park Ridge, IL 60068
847-297-6704
masonryadvisorycouncil.org

Submit projects at <https://masonryadvisorycouncil.org/start-your-submission/>

SCHWEISS

DOORS



**YOU THINK IT,
WE BUILD IT!**

HYDRAULIC - OR - BIFOLD
ONE-PIECE DOORS STRAP LIFT DOORS

507-426-8273



"BUILDING BETTER DOORS"

SCHWEISSDOORS.COM



**GEO THERMAL
ENERGY SOLUTIONS, INC**

Geothermal HVAC Today and Tomorrow

- The best highest efficiency HVAC system available
- An average of 65% of home consumed energy is used for heating and air-conditioning
- Geothermal uses free earth energy to reduce gas and electricity consumption
- Geothermal is free earth energy for life, no CO2 exposure, quiet and safe
- An established technology with Federal and utility incentives provides an economical alternative to gas-fired furnaces and outside condensers
- Manufacturer heat pump warranty up to 10 years available



Renewable technology that is up to 500% efficient and saves up to 70% of heating, cooling and hot water costs is the solution to meet the needs of today's homeowners.

Geothermal Energy Solutions Inc., www.geotsolutions.com Illinois-based design-build Contractor, is one of the area's oldest geothermal installers with a long track record designing, installing, and servicing geothermal HVAC.

Geothermal Energy Solutions Inc. is an authorized dealer for major US-based geothermal heat pump manufacturers. We work with well-proven equipment manufacturers. The manufacturer's warranties are available for up to 18 years.

EnerTech Global/Hydron Module geothermal heat pump, US build since 1996, ISO certified quality and commitment to environmental management standards.

(847) 586-0570

Email: info@geotsolutions.com

3000 Dundee Rd Suite 301 Northbrook, IL 60062

www.geotsolutions.com



PRESIDENT
Christopher E. Chwedyk, AIA
 Director
 The Code Group Inc.,
 Burnham Nationwide



VICE PRESIDENT
Danielle J. Tillman, AIA, NOMA
 Managing Principal
 bKL Architecture LLC



SECRETARY
Gracia Maria Shiffrin, JD, FAIA
 Enforcement Analyst
 U.S. Department of
 Housing and Urban
 Development, Office
 of General Counsel –
 Enforcement Center



TREASURER
Walter D. Street III, AIA, NOMA
 Principal Architect
 Walter Street
 Architecture



PAST PRESIDENT
Chris-Annmarie Spencer, AIA, NOMA
 Principal
 Wheeler Kearns
 Architects



TRUSTEE
Susan Conger-Austin, AIA
 Faculty
 College of Architecture
 at IIT



TRUSTEE
Elliott E. Dudnik, FAIA
 Owner
 Elliott Dudnik
 + Associates



TRUSTEE
Palmyra Geraki, AIA
 Founding Principal
 Palmyra PLLC



TRUSTEE
Kerl LaJeune, Assoc. AIA, NOMA
 Director of Planning
 and Design
 Public Building
 Commission of Chicago



TRUSTEE
Julia Mosqueda, Assoc. AIA
 Staff Designer
 LBBA



TRUSTEE
Gina (JinHwa) Paradowicz, AIA
 Associate Principal
 Perkins Eastman



TRUSTEE
Lynette Stuhlmacher, Assoc. AIA
 President
 Red Leaf Studio Inc.



TRUSTEE
P.K. "Trish" VanderBeke, AIA
 Principal
 P.K. VanderBeke,
 Architect



PUBLIC TRUSTEE
Roberta Feldman, Ph.D.
 Professor Emerita
 School of Architecture,
 University of Illinois
 at Chicago



PUBLIC TRUSTEE
Mary K. Woolever
 Art and Architecture
 Archivist, retired
 Ryerson and
 Burnham Libraries



EX OFFICIO; AIA CHICAGO FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT-ELECT
Jason Golub, AIA
 Vice President
 Ware Malcomb

AIA Chicago Foundation Appoints New Board of Trustees and Embarks on New Mission and Vision

MISSION: Investing in Chicago's next generation of architectural change-makers by awarding scholarships, grants, and recognition.

VISION: A city where the architecture profession is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

The AIA Chicago Foundation is honored to welcome its exceptional new Board of Trustees, representing a diverse cross-section of the architectural community and beyond. They bring a wealth of experience and a shared commitment to advancing the Foundation's mission of investing in Chicago's next generation of architectural change-makers by awarding scholarships, grants, and recognition.


Nominated by the Foundation's Board of Trustees Nominating Committee and elected by the chapter's membership, the Board of Trustees stands poised to grow the Foundation and build a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive profession.

The 2024 Nominating Committee was composed of the following individuals:

Gina (JinHwa) Paradowicz, AIA –
AIA Chicago Foundation Trustee, Committee Chair
Kerl LeJeune, Assoc. AIA –
AIA Chicago Foundation Trustee

Julia Mosqueda, Assoc. AIA –
AIA Chicago Foundation Trustee
Chris-Annmarie Spencer, AIA, NOMA –
AIA Chicago Foundation President

Throughout 2023, the AIA Chicago Foundation Board of Trustees worked alongside the Foundation’s legal counsel to update and modernize the bylaws to incorporate best practices for not-for-profit organizations and to take advantage of recent changes to Illinois nonprofit law. As a result of that effort, the Board of Trustees presented the amended and restated bylaws to the chapter in late 2023, which were voted upon and approved by chapter membership. The amended and restated bylaws were approved by the Foundation Board of Trustees. Highlights include:

- The Foundation has **greater control over the selection of candidates** to serve as the Foundation’s Trustees and Officers.
- **The Foundation will have its own Nominations Committee.**
- The new bylaws also **clarify and strengthen the relationship between the Foundation and AIA Chicago** and ensure that they continue to work together for the benefit of the AIA Chicago membership and the architectural community at large in accordance with the Foundation’s mission and purposes. 

➔ To read the Amended and Restated Bylaws, visit www.aiachicago.org/foundationbylaws.



POWERING CHICAGO
IBEW 134/NECA

BETTER CONSTRUCTION. BETTER CAREERS. BETTER COMMUNITIES.

Find Helpful Resources for your Journey to Clean Energy from the Qualified Experts @ WWW.POWERINGCHICAGO.COM

LEARN MORE

Solutions that seal out the weather and protect investments



DOWSIL™ ALLGUARD provides a durable, high-performance exterior protective coating designed to waterproof above-grade exterior masonry substrates for new and existing construction. All backed by DOWSIL's 10 year warranty.

Call Your Sealant Engineering Sales Representative to set up a Lunch & Learn on DOWSIL™ products.

(630) 860-7878



**SEALANT ENGINEERING
CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY, INC.**



Sealant Engineering Construction Supply is now part of Beacon Waterproofing.

Product information provided by Dow.com.

DOWSIL™
silicones by 

ALLGUARD Silicone
Elastomeric Coating

Outdoor Kaleidoscope Collection

- 36-gallon capacity
- LLDPE Dome Tops with 4 openings for trash or recyclables
- Extra-deep, self-locking recessed handles fit into sides of receptacles and provide liner bag retention
- Crisp, white decals to denote waste stream on all four sides of unit



service@ex-cell.com
(847) 451-0451



2024 Call-to-Action

AIA Chicago members,

Now that the Spring 2024 legislative session is under way, I wanted to provide an update on ways you can participate and follow along with AIA Illinois' legislative agenda, as well as introduce you to the ways in which we are improving transparency and inclusivity.

Legislative Committee

AIA Illinois has formed a standing Legislative Committee composed of members throughout the state that covers a wide range of demographics. This committee has devoted a lot of time to reviewing bills, making recommendations, and informing and disseminating information across the committee and AIA Illinois membership.

Legislation Tracking


This year, AIA Illinois has started tracking nearly 50 bills (of the 8,000-plus bills and resolutions introduced in Spring 2023 and Spring 2024). We will continue to monitor these bills through the end of the year to support, oppose, or continue watching based on recommendations of the committee and input from our membership. To view our legislation tracker, please visit www.aiaill.org/advocacy.

If you have any thoughts or insight on any legislation listed or would like us to consider any other legislative issues, please email advocacy@aiaill.org. Concerns will be shared directly with our legislative staff and team.

Updates to the Rolling Clock

Senate Bill 2819 and House Bill 4416 are the two bills that AIA Illinois partnered with legislators to file to eliminate the "rolling clock" in Illinois, which placed a five-year expiration date on passed divisions of the Architect Registration Examination (ARE®). Our team will be actively supporting these in both chambers and as the legislative session moves forward, and we will be asking for your help to contact your legislators and push for them to support these bills.

How You Can Make a Difference

Many thanks to those who attended AIA Illinois' annual advocacy day, "Prairie Grassroots," which falls annually in late winter/early spring. This was a great day of advocacy and outreach at the Illinois Capitol in Springfield. 



Eric Klinner, CAE

AIA Illinois Executive Vice President



Please Send Your News To:

editor@aiachicago.org

By submitting content to *Chicago Architect*, you consent to publication and affirm you have permission to distribute any photos. Deadline to submit for the next issue is April 12, 2024.



Matthew Messner, AIA, is pleased to announce the founding of DRUMLIN, a small Chicago-based architecture firm working closely with small businesses, community organizations, and individuals on design through construction.



Lorraine Kasznia, AIA, has joined Kahler Slater as principal and workplace practice leader who will oversee their workplace market, leveraging more than 25 years of design, management, and academic experience.



Valerio Dewalt Train (VDT) has promoted **Sheri Andrews, AIA, LEED AP BD+C**, to principal and **Peter Wojtowicz, AIA**, to senior associate. Andrews joined the VDT team in 2006 and Wojtowicz joined in 2015. Wojtowicz also serves as the vice president of honors and awards at AIA Chicago.



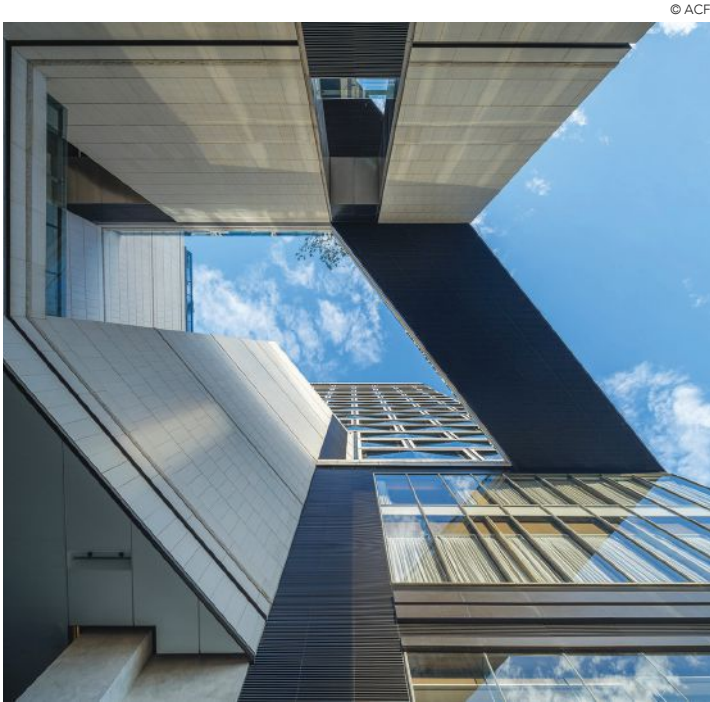
AltusWorks Inc. is beginning a new chapter for their practice at the historic Chicago and Northwestern Powerhouse building in Chicago's vibrant West Loop neighborhood at 211 North Clinton Street, Suite 3S.



Landon Bone Baker Architects, the socially minded Chicago-based firm, is pleased to announce its rebrand and name change to **LBBA**. As LBBA continues to evolve and grow, it will stay true to its mission and carry on making good design for everyone.



ALL IMAGES ARE COURTESY OF THE FIRM, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. LEED AP STATUS IS INDICATED ONLY IF REPORTED BY THE FIRM.



Goettsch Partners (GP) has announced the completion of Conrad Shenzhen, Hilton Worldwide’s first luxury offering within the China gateway city.



Kahler Slater, an award-winning architecture, interior design, environmental branding, and strategic advisory firm, is pleased to announce the firm’s move to a new Chicago office location on the 17th floor of 150 North Wacker Drive. Pictured are **Trina Sandschafer, AIA**, executive vice president and design principal; and **Glenn Roby**, co-chief executive officer.



bKL Architecture is proud to announce the promotion of several AIA Chicago members to director: **Ruxandra Antea, AIA**; **Isaac Persley, AIA, LEED AP BD+C**; **Paul Schroeckenstein, AIA**.



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicagoland (MWRDGC) Principal Architect **Michelle Gillette-Murphy, AIA**, has been elected to chairperson of the seven-member Illinois Architecture Licensing Board.

ALL IMAGES ARE COURTESY OF THE FIRM, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. LEED AP® STATUS IS INDICATED ONLY IF REPORTED BY THE FIRM.



COURTESY OF GOOGLE BY PIXELFLAKES



Google has unveiled new renderings for the refresh of the Thompson Center, designed by **Jahn/**, the original design firm for the building. The project team is aiming to achieve an all-electric, LEED Platinum building.



Please Send Your News To:

editor@aiachicago.org

By submitting content to *Chicago Architect*, you consent to publication and affirm you have permission to distribute any photos. Deadline to submit for the next issue is April 12, 2024.

TOM HARRIS PHOTOGRAPHY



Common Pantry, Chicago's longest-running food pantry, which was operated out of a rented basement within the Epiphany United Church of Christ in the North Center neighborhood, has acquired a one-story, 6,252-square-foot building on Lincoln Avenue, just two blocks from its previous location. Designed by **Wheeler Kearns Architects**, the pantry — which has served as a nightclub, laundromat, and, most recently, a restaurant — underwent a remarkable transformation.

TOM ROSSITER



SMNG A Ltd., along with their associate architect partner **Farr Associates**, celebrated the ribbon cutting of the Academy for Global Citizenship (AGC) on Chicago's Southwest Side at the end of 2023. This first phase of the Cultivate Collective Community Hub includes a K-8 public school, six teaching kitchens, an early childhood Head Start center, community-based health care center, and neighborhood marketplace. It is on track to be Chicago's first dual-certified Living Building Challenge (LBC) and PHIUS (Passive House Institute US Inc.) building in the Midwest.

SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL



Ted Haug, AIA, celebrated 40 years at **Legat Architects**. Over the past four decades, Haug has set a standard for quickly solving design challenges while respecting budgets and schedules. Haug's portfolio, spanning hundreds of projects, ranges from small renovations to new campuses.

Designed by **Skidmore, Owings & Merrill** and developed by Shapack Partners and CRG, 220 North Ada Street in Chicago's Fulton Market is slated to break ground in March. This 29-story mixed-use development with residential floors atop a lobby, retail, and parking podium is expected to include EV charging stations and green roofs. The team is committed to ensuring 80 percent construction waste diversion.



A mixed-use development at 4547 South State Street in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood will replace two vacant lots. Designed by the **Gudier Group LLC**, the five-story structure will contain two large commercial spaces, one designated for a restaurant with a large rear patio.

GUDIER GROUP LLC



Please Send Your News To:

editor@aiachicago.org

By submitting content to *Chicago Architect*, you consent to publication and affirm you have permission to distribute any photos. Deadline to submit for the next issue is April 12, 2024.

AJ BROWN IMAGING



Galesburg Community Unit School District #205's Bright Futures Preschool received an Award of Merit from the Illinois Association of School Boards. The **Legat Architects**-designed project has transformed a church into a preschool and administration center.

BRENT MOSS PHOTOGRAPHY LLC



The North Sheffield Development & Edith Spurlock Sampson Center, designed by the team at **RATIO Design**, pays homage to the first African American U.S. delegate appointed to the United Nations. The new, mixed-income residential building in Lincoln Park for the Chicago Housing Authority and PIRHL transforms a '60s-era senior development into a revitalized community with vibrant amenities.

ALL IMAGES ARE COURTESY OF THE FIRM, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. LEED AP® STATUS IS INDICATED ONLY IF REPORTED BY THE FIRM.

Partners by Design, in collaboration with **JSI's** creative team, transformed the Fulton Market showroom into a versatile space that transcends the traditional showroom concept, serving as a hub for the JSI community and clients to gather, reflecting JSI's guiding principle of inspiring people to "Love What You Do." The space, a tribute to the tradespeople shaping JSI, features in-house crafted elements like the reception display, slat walls, millwork, and hanging wood planks.

TOM HARRIS PHOTOGRAPHY





ROSS FLOYD

Designed as a place where “cities and parks come together,” **Partners by Design’s** new office for Vizient® in Chicago’s West Loop integrates a modern, sophisticated, and technologically forward aesthetic with the Art Deco detailing of the historic Old Post Office. Vizient’s office plan embodies its commitment to community, featuring a central boulevard characterized by architectural bent-wood ribs, neon signs, and street-lamp-inspired globes, creating a dynamic space for connection, collaboration, and interaction among colleagues.



Gensler is pleased to announce the appointment of **Rick Fawell, AIA**, and **Stephen Katz, AIA**, to principal.



OKW Architects is pleased to announce the promotion of three individuals within the firm: **Cole Gagnon, AIA**, to president; **Melissa Toops, AIA**, to director of process; and **Anders Rustin, AIA**, to director of strategy.



A new urban redevelopment project at 750 North Avers Avenue, designed by **Lamar Johnson Collaborative**, is set to bring 60 affordable housing units to the Humboldt Park neighborhood in Chicago. At 70,000 square feet, the four-story building is slated to achieve green certifications from both PHIUS (Passive House Institute US Inc.) and Enterprise Green Communities.

CHICAGO CITY DAY



Cynthia Weese, FAIA, architect of the Chicago City Day School, sharing the project with Emily Ray, AIA.
TARA WHITE/HAPPY HOUR COLLABORATIVE





TARA WHITE/HAPPY HOUR COLLABORATIVE

A Retrospective and Look Forward

Cynthia Weese, FAIA, Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient in
Conversation with Emily Ray, AIA, Dubin Family Young Architect Award Recipient

by Taylor Moore



Gallery House for an Artist (Weese Langley Weese Architects, 2008) in Empire, Michigan.
HEDRICH BLESSING, COURTESY OF
WEESE LANGLEY WEESE ARCHITECTS LTD.

In 1974, two major architectural exhibitions premiered at museums in Chicago. But **Cynthia Weese, FAIA**, noticed there was something missing. These exhibits, which showcased some of the best work in the city, featured no work from female architects. When Weese brought it up to a friend, he told her, dismissively, to “show me any woman’s work that deserves to be in them.”

Weese took it as a challenge. In 1978, she co-organized “Chicago Women Architects: Contemporary Directions,” the first exhibition of its kind, featuring the work of architects like **Margaret Zirkel Young, AIA** (River Plaza), and

Carol Ross Barney, FAIA (University of Chicago Fieldhouse). At the time, women accounted for less than 2 percent of AIA Chicago membership. Due in no small part to the contributions of architects like Weese, this figure that has since risen to 32 percent. Women represented in AIA Chicago’s student members are closer to 50 percent — similar to the demographics of the city’s schools of architecture.

Early-career architect **Emily Ray, AIA**, is a testament to this growth and is pushing boundaries in her own right. In early 2019, Ray was one of several original founding members of AIA Chicago’s LGBTQIA+ Alliance, the first such



A New Leaf (Weese Langley Weese Architects, 2002) transformed 19th-century buildings into vibrant retail and event spaces. HEDRICH BLESSING, COURTESY OF WEESE LANGLEY WEESE ARCHITECTS LTD.



Cynthia Weese, FAIA, designed the original addition to the Chicago City Day School, pictured at left, in 1990. Her son, Dan Weese, AIA, designed a subsequent addition, pictured at right, in 1997. HEDRICH BLESSING, COURTESY OF WEESE LANGLEY WEESE ARCHITECTS LTD.

AIA group in the country and now replicated or in development in a dozen other AIA chapters.

As a queer woman, she felt that the nature of “professionalism” often excluded people of marginalized identities, “[creating] two personas — the person I am at home and the person I am at the office.”

“Unless I tell them, no one has to know I’m engaged to a woman,” Ray said. “So, it’s easy to become susceptible to the idea that we suppress that part of ourselves to conform to the mainstream. But it always comes up. Someone inevitably asks about your home life or a personal question — and you face the dilemma of whether or not to come out to this person. It may not always be an easy decision, for example, on a contractor’s job site.”

AIA Chicago and the AIA Chicago Foundation recently honored both architects with awards celebrating their leadership and architectural practice. Weese, principal of Weese Langley Weese Architects, is the winner of the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award, AIA Chicago’s highest individual honor, in recognition of her more than 50 years of leadership, design, and teaching experience. Ray, project architect at Wheeler Kearns Architects (WKA), is the recipient of the 2024 Dubin Family Young Architect Award, awarded by the AIA Chicago Foundation.

Cynthia Weese knew from the age of 14 that she wanted to design buildings. She was most inspired by Eliel Saarinen’s Art Center in Des Moines, Iowa; Frank Lloyd Wright’s Johnson Wax Research Tower in Racine, Wisconsin; and her grandmother’s craftsman-style home built by her grandfather in Des Moines. “You have somewhat naïve reasons at the beginning [for wanting to become an architect], but the image of those three buildings still is a powerful one with me,” Weese said.

She remembers, as a child, watching the Saarinen-designed building as it was being constructed. One day, she decided to take a closer look. “[Tromping] through all the construction mud,” with her grandmother following dutifully, they entered the back courtyard, which contained a sculpture by Carl Milles. Once the building was completed, she was finally able to peek inside, which she said felt like going to a different country. “The light was so lovely coming in

through the big windows. And the sound was different. It was a really peaceful, serene environment — wonderfully Scandinavian.”

Weese graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 1965 with dual bachelor’s degrees in architectural sciences and architecture — an educational experience she found transformative. She met her husband, Ben Weese, FAIA — brother of the late architect Harry Weese, FAIA — when he was a visiting faculty member. She moved to Chicago to join him, beginning her career in independent practice.

“In the late ’70s, the women I knew who were practicing with their husbands were managing

the office and making everything smooth so the great man could do his work,” Weese said. “And I wasn’t going to do that. I thought it was very important to be identified as a distinct, separate person, not just [as] Ben’s wife who helps him a lot. It was several years before we worked on anything together.”

Throughout her career, Weese designed buildings such as the Chicago City Day School in Lincoln Park; the Art Institute of Chicago’s Kraft General Foods Education Center; A New Leaf, a florist and event venue; and Illinois Corn Crib, a farm building converted into a weekend retreat space near Champaign. She was

also active in the community, co-founding the revived Chicago Architectural Club and Chicago Women in Architecture and served as president of AIA Chicago in 1987 through 1988 as well as on the Board of the Society of Architectural Historians. She was invited to join the original Chicago Seven, a group of architects pushing against the status quo of modernism, as its only female member.

In 1993, while she was serving as vice president of AIA National, Weese became the dean of the School of Architecture for her alma mater, Washington University — the first woman to serve as a dean at the university. At the time, she was hesitant to pivot to academia full time because of her love of practicing architecture, but she found a calling in redesigning its graduate program — creating graduate semesters abroad in Buenos Aires, Helsinki, and Tokyo — and investing in the digital technology that would transform the industry in the next decade.

“The technological revolution had just begun. It was just in its early infant stages, and some schools [said], ‘We’ll never have computers here,’ and I knew that it was absolutely necessary.”

Growing up, Ray had always been creative. In school, she took dance classes, started a film club with her friends, and participated in school musicals. But architecture, for her, was an unusual obsession.

“I grew up a voracious drawer and constantly drew houses and airports,” she said. “I loved trying to work out the flow of people, cars, and planes at an airport in the plan. And I drew all the houses in section. I have no idea where I learned to do these things. I have no architects in the family, and I never met anyone who was an architect.”

Ray graduated with a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Texas at Austin, where she also took courses in historic preservation. Determined to move to a larger city, she found a position at HBRA Architects despite never visiting Chicago and having no connections there. Her first project, ironically enough, happened to be at the Chicago History Museum, where she helped renovate the historic McCormick Theater.

In 2016, she participated as a mentee in AIA Chicago’s Bridge mentorship program and

KENDALL MCCAUGHERTY, HALL + MERRICK + MCCAUGHERTY



At top: A view from the CTA Sheridan Red Line Station platform of the Broadway Youth Center (Wheeler Kearns Architects, 2021), which features double-height glass at the rear façade and projectable roller shades, allowing the Broadway Youth Center to project artwork and community values to passersby at the train station. **At bottom:** The Broadway Youth Center’s Dance and Movement Room interior is a double-height space with triple-pane glazing and southern exposure that fronts the ‘L’ train.

attended her first AIA National conference. “I realized the architecture community in Chicago is very supportive, open, and non-competitive. Everyone here wants to do their best for the city and its inhabitants, and we look at our work as contributing to the overarching fabric of the city rather than as individual buildings in a vacuum. It’s a very altruistic, non-egotistical approach to practicing architecture where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”

A few years later, in 2019 and 2020, she took on the biggest projects of her career to date: designing the Broadway Youth Center, a 20,000-square-foot health and social services center for LGBTQIA+ youth in Lakeview, and the Great Lakes Academy Charter School in South Chicago. “I thrive on delivering projects for grassroots organizations and clients who dream beyond their means and envision a world that does not yet exist,” Ray said. “It’s so easy to get discouraged by the building process in Chicago. There’s no shortage of pitfalls, setbacks, and hurdles. While some clients may have connections or resources to make those problems disappear, most grassroots organizations must face them head-on.”

Katherine Myers-Crum, founder of Great Lakes Academy, was impressed by Ray’s ability to listen and create “beautiful, joyful spaces” on tight budgets. During the renovation, Ray helped convert a vacant church into a state-of-the-art enrichment center for arts and athletics programs, which were formerly unavailable to students. “It is a truly awe-inspiring space to be in,” Myers-Crum said. Ray also suggested making all new restrooms gender-neutral to ensure inclusivity for all current and future students, to which Myers-Crum readily agreed.

“For kids on the North Side, it’s expected that they have a nice building,” Myers-Crum continued. “On the South Side, when kids have a nice school, they’re considered lucky. This space communicates to our children that they’re deserving of an amazing space, day in and day out.”

Ray is involved in her community of East Garfield Park, where she moved and bought a two-flat with her partner in 2021. The first floor of their home has served as a photo studio for drag performers and LGBTQIA+ artists and as a community space for creatives and artists, emerging entrepreneurs, and community organizations such as Peace Runners, Garfield



Clockwise from top left: Weese stands outside Chicago City Day School (Weese Langley Weese Architects, 1990). Ray sits outside Broadway Youth Center (Wheeler Kearns Architects, 2021). Ray and Weese tour the Shorey Shop with Fonda Baldwin, right, technology and design teacher at Chicago City Day School. The Shorey Shop is a beloved learning space where students imagine, design, and build. TARA WHITE/HAPPY HOUR COLLABORATIVE



At left: A protected courtyard nestled between two decades-old masonry buildings provides socialization and recreation space for students of Great Lakes Academy Charter School (Wheeler Kearns Architects, 2021).

KENDALL MCCAUGHERTY, HALL + MERRICK + MCCAUGHERTY

Park Conservatory Alliance, and Westside Rising. “We are committed to supporting people in our city who are creating something new — be that art, a small business, or a better future for our neighborhood.”

Weese and Ray had not known each other prior to this article, but despite differences in background and age, they found they had a lot in common — and a lot to admire about one another. During a chilly day this January, they took one another on tours of two of their projects: Chicago City Day School and the Broadway Youth Center. Weese had not visited the school in more than 30 years and was struck by how its caretakers had embellished it over the years in new and creative ways.

Weese and Ray said they both loved working with values-driven clients and testified to the importance of architects in creating social change. When Weese was actively practicing, she specialized in affordable housing and participatory design, which **Andy Metter, FAIA**, design principal at Perkins&Will, said was unheard of at the time. Weese and her husband were “at the forefront of social change,” Metter said.

Weese believes that architects need to be more concerned with issues that affect low-income people and suggested that AIA could marshal its resources and members toward solving the city’s current migrant housing crisis, which has left thousands living on the street and in temporary shelters. Too many architects are interested in glorifying themselves, she said. “We are people who serve the larger community and do things for them and make their lives better by good design, which doesn’t mean fancy finishes. It

means space that you can use well and use correctly.”

While working on the Broadway Youth Center, which is down the street from a hospital, Ray learned that, for the young people the center would serve, sirens could be triggering. From the start, her team decided to use triple-glazed windows to ensure a tranquil, soundproofed environment. “Every decision needs to be based on equity,” Ray said. “You need to be empathizing with every different type of person who’s going to be entering these spaces and putting yourself in their shoes. How are they going to experience it? How can I impact all the different senses to make sure that this person gets the most out of the space that I’m designing for them?”

Mentorship has also been a priority for both. Weese said that she felt “enlivened” by the presence and the critical thinking of her students. Metter, who has participated in portfolio critiques and juries alongside her, said that her listening skills in particular make her special in the industry. “Whenever she makes a critique, students take it to heart because I think that they feel that she, through her listening ability and empathy, understands what you’re talking about, what your priorities are, and what you’re trying to do to achieve your goals. I think that’s why she’s so well respected,” Metter said.

This winter, Ray has again been participating as a mentor for the ACE Mentor Program, which teaches high school students about the architecture, construction, and engineering fields. Their assignment was to design something — anything — in Steelworkers Park on the



TARA WHITE/HAPPY HOUR COLLABORATIVE

Above: Weese and Ray tour the auditorium at Chicago City Day School (Weese Langley Weese Architects, 1990).

Southeast Side. Using their own research, they learned that the adjacent neighborhood, South Chicago, lacks many grocery stores and food resources, so they decided to include a market with local businesses that is accessible to residents via public transportation.

“A lot of their decisions are guided by equity without even having to be told that,” Ray said. “They have this incredible empathy. It’s really a joy to witness it each week. I’ve left each Wednesday this winter feeling reinvigorated about the future of the profession.” **CA**

➔ **For more on the life and work of Cynthia Weese, FAIA, watch the 2023 video AIA Chicago produced for her Lifetime Achievement Award at aiachicago.org/lifetimeachievement.**



America's Aging Airports Are Undergoing a Transformation.

Chicago Architects Are Leading the Way.

by Dillon Goodson, Affil. AIA Chicago

On November 24, 1934, a commercial airliner touched down in Newark, New Jersey. After the eight- or nine-hour flight from Chicago, every passenger onboard was eager to get off the plane, except for one: the irascible mayor of New York City.

“My ticket says New York,” the mayor complained to a gaggle of awaiting journalists and airport officials, insisting that he hadn’t paid to be taken to Newark. After a considerable argument on the tarmac, the field manager finally intervened, ferrying the man on the short flight across the Bay to Floyd Bennett Field, a small airfield on the outskirts of Brooklyn. He arrived some 25 minutes later.

The stunt proved to be politically expedient for the mayor, who used the publicity it garnered to push for the construction of a larger commercial airport within the city limits. Less than five years later, he cut the ribbon on a state-of-the-art airport that would go on to bear his name: LaGuardia.

This year marks 85 years since Fiorello La Guardia’s vision was realized and one of

America’s first modern commercial airports opened its doors. Almost everything about air travel has changed in the decades since. Thanks to the deregulation of the U.S. airline industry, passed by Congress in 1978, a coast-to-coast round-trip flight that cost roughly half of the price of a new automobile in the 1930s can be booked today for a little more than \$350, on average. Aviation is more accessible than ever, and a record-breaking 4.7 billion travelers are expected to take flight this year. That’s a flight for more than half of all people living on the planet today.

With demand sky-high, aging airports are stuck handling passenger volumes that they weren’t designed to accommodate. In the United States, where the average airport terminal dates back 40 years to the first term of President Ronald Reagan, domestic airlines are serving more than two and a half times as many passengers as they did in the early 1980s. These passengers often arrive long before their boarding call, a consequence of procedures for security screening that didn’t exist until after the

September 11 attacks — and the long lines that often accompany them.

The result? Airports that were originally built like hallways meant to move people through are being renovated as places of respite — more akin to a living room.

‘An Airport that Doesn’t Look Like an Airport’

Dr. Joseph Schwieterman, director of DePaul University’s Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development, has been fascinated by airports since he was young. He is the author of a book called *Terminal Town*, which offers an illustrated history of Chicago’s airports, bus depots, and train stations since 1939. Taking stock of the state of travel around the globe, he wonders if we might be living in the “golden age” of airports.

“Airports have become part of a city’s branding, just like parks and monuments might have been many years ago,” said Schwieterman. “Airlines are pushing for it — they want a memorable or quality experience. Our living



NIC LEHOUX

Designed by HOK and Muller & Muller Ltd., the wing-shaped extension of Terminal 5 at O'Hare International Airport was recognized with a Citation of Merit by AIA Chicago's Design Excellence Awards jury in 2023.

standards are going up; people are traveling more. So, a dreary environment really wears on people more than it did years ago.”

Last year, approximately 100 domestic airports received federal funding for expansion projects. Combined with contributions from airline companies, this investment has been a boon for Chicago architecture firms that specialize in aviation design. Architects are one of the many professions that stand to benefit from the FAA’s Airport Terminals Program, a \$5 billion grant made possible by the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. It was signed into law by President Joe Biden in 2021.

Located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Gerald R. Ford International Airport received more than \$8.6 million in funding from the program in 2022 for the integration of eight new passenger boarding bridges on newly designated gate spaces. The Chicago office of **HKS** is the lead architectural designer and architect of record on the renovation, dubbed Elevate, which helped the airport achieve recognition as the best small airport in the country by *USA Today* in 2023. Mead & Hunt assisted with the interior design of the project.

“With [the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in] Grand Rapids, we tried to design an airport that doesn’t look like an airport,” said **Jorge Barrero, AIA**, regional design director and principal at HKS. “We tried really hard to start to direct our attention away from what a prototypical image of an airport would be, and that means you don’t see too many beam seating options. It’s a lot more tables — a lot more customized [and] sort of individual seats.” According to Barrero, amenities like these reflect a thoughtful design approach that is often reserved for larger airports.

The features of West Michigan — including the lake, dunes, forest, and city — served as the inspiration for HKS designers to create a unique sense of place within the concourse. As visitors navigate through the airport, they encounter four distinct zones, each marked by different colors, materials, and lighting that represent the diverse landscapes of West Michigan. Clerestory windows extending along the expansion are designed to resemble the waves of the Great Lakes. It all culminates in what architects call the “end of the journey” at the south end of the concourse, where a map of the Great Lakes is etched on a glass wall.



Located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Gerald R. Ford International Airport received more than \$8.6 million in federal funding in 2022 for the integration of eight new passenger boarding bridges on newly designated gate spaces.

The Chicago office of HKS is the lead architectural designer and architect of record on the renovation, dubbed Elevate, which helped the airport achieve recognition as the best small airport in the country by *USA Today* in 2023.





By incorporating a nod to nature in the airport's design, HKS was focused on improving the experience of travel for all passengers — especially those who may have a fear of flying.

"[Airports] have to deal with a lot of human emotion," he said. "When you start to think about what happens in an airport, people can be really happy because they're going some place great that they really want to go to. They could also be sad or they could be anxious — they experience a range of emotions, and a lot of times people don't think about it."

On the Menu: An Elevated Dining Experience

Barrero and his team at HKS aren't the only designers prioritizing traveler comfort. Architects in Chicago and across the country are raising the bar on airport design in an effort to entice passengers to linger longer by making every aspect of the travel experience feel more like home.

Perhaps no other aspect of the modern airport has been touched by transformation as much as airport hospitality. Travelers through New Orleans' Louis Armstrong International Airport can wash down gumbo and fried oysters from chef Emeril Lagasse with beignets from the world-famous Cafe Du Monde. Inside the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, pitmasters sling barbecue tacos from within a retrofitted taco truck just steps away from Amy's Ice Creams, a local chain that regularly draws lines at its traditional brick-and-mortar locations. All of these airports are catering to a growing market for locally inspired cuisine.

Closer to home, Chicago's major airports have completely revamped their dining options. As part of a \$75 million concessions upgrade, the Midway Partnership — a consortium of airport hospitality and development companies — is opening approximately 60 new restaurants and retail establishments as part of the first upgrade to Chicago's Midway International Airport in nearly 20 years. At O'Hare International Airport, officials recently cut the ribbon on outposts for The Hampton Social and Bar Siena as part of a \$1.3 billion expansion of Terminal 5. **O'Kelly Kasprak**, a Chicago-based architecture, interior design, and project management firm, has designed several of the new hospitality spaces at both airports, including the Midway outpost of River North staple Hubbard Inn.

"One of the really fun aspects of it, and it's a little bit challenging from a design perspective, is ... setting up these hospitality experiences within a big white giant box," said **Belinda O'Kelly, AIA**, founding principal of the firm. "And we're going to try to make you feel like you're at Hubbard Inn, which is eclectic, mostly due to its historic building location."

O'Kelly likens the challenge to set design for live theater performances, where a stage designer is responsible for transporting an audience to a different place and time. Their solution for Hubbard Inn involved hanging large pieces of framed artwork on cables that descend from the ceiling and incorporating lighting "tricks" to set the scene for a more intimate dining experience. The entire restaurant is located in the center of the concourse, expanding room for dining by replacing a former travelator — or moving walkway. This creates what the team likes to call a "design school" challenge.

"Travelators are built on a big concrete pit, and you have to somehow figure out how to create the kitchen and how to serve people in a space that's 150 feet long and 11 feet wide," said **David Kasprak, AIA**, O'Kelly's business partner and founding principal of O'Kelly Kasprak. "The airport authority will not let the tenant go outside of the lease line in order to serve the space — everything has to go through 11 feet of space in and out. So, the logistical piece is super challenging."

A Blueprint for the Future

The promise of increased revenue from new and enhanced concession areas has helped fund the modernization of airport terminals across America, including the expansion of Terminal 5 at O'Hare International Airport. Led by **HOK** and **Muller & Muller Ltd.**, the terminal's renovation added 350,000 square feet and 10 new gates, increasing its amenity space by 75 percent. Its design, inspired by the shape of a wing, was recognized with a Citation of Merit by AIA Chicago's Design Excellence Awards jury in 2023.

The project marks the terminal's first major expansion since it opened in 1993 and represents a significant first step in the O'Hare 21 program, the name given to Chicago's initiative to completely modernize O'Hare International Airport "from curb to gate." Another component of the program is the \$2.2 billion O'Hare Global Terminal, which aims to more than double

the space of today's Terminal 2 by replacing it with an expanded, light-filled arrivals hall. Led by Studio Gang, the ambitious project faced headwinds at the end of 2023 when two major carriers, United and American, expressed concerns over the price tag. **Solomon Cordwell Buenz (SCB), Corgan, Milhouse Engineering & Construction Inc.,** and **STLarchitects** are also part of the project team.

According to Schwieterman, improvements to Chicago's airports are long overdue. "Around the world, cities are racing to create airports that stand out from their rivals," he said, conceding that, in the United States, airports have "fallen behind." In part, that's because of the sheer number of airports, each of which requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades to its facilities. America is home to more than 13,000 airports of all sizes — at least three times as many airports as any other country in the world. Therefore, "it's not realistic to expect grandiose terminals for every trip," said Schwieterman.

Still, he is encouraged by the progress that's been made — especially at the country's larger, international gateways. That includes LaGuardia Airport, which recently completed a dramatic transformation marketed as "A Whole New LGA."

In a full circle moment for one of America's early commercial airports, LaGuardia is marking yet another first: It's the first new major airport built in the United States in the last 25 years.

At the center of the project is the 1.3 million-square-foot Terminal B, completed at the cost of \$4 billion as part of the largest public-private partnership in U.S. aviation history. The redevelopment includes a new 35-gate terminal, a central hall, and supporting infrastructure, including a parking garage and roadways. The Chicago office of HOK contributed professional advisory services to "A Whole New LGA" and led the design of Terminal B.

Peter Ruggiero, AIA, design principal at HOK, explained that the project's design was informed by the limitations of constructing a new airport on the grounds of an active site. Seeking to avoid disruptions to travelers, HOK designed the new terminal to be built over the top of the existing airport facility, allowing it to remain fully functional during construction in what Ruggiero called a "surgical" process.

"One of the interesting things about the new terminal at LaGuardia is it's in fact a four-



The expansion of Terminal 5 at O'Hare International Airport added 350,000 square feet and 10 new gates, increasing its amenity space by 75 percent. It's the terminal's first major expansion since it opened in 1993. NIC LEHOUX

story building," he said. "The fact that it's on this tighter site closer to the Grand Central Parkway, where an old parking garage used to be, enabled us to kind of stack the building vertically."

The terminal's vertical design creates a striking metaphor for New York City, a city of islands and

bridges. Two island concourses are connected to a main terminal via large pedestrian bridges that span over the top of taxiing airplanes, offering views of the Manhattan skyline and enhancing airport operations. This not only improves the aesthetic and passenger experience but also allows for dual taxi lanes, reducing aircraft fuel

FLYING FORWARD: RECENT AIRPORTS DESIGNED BY CHICAGO FIRMS

Chicago architects have been at the forefront of transforming airports across the country. The following recent projects showcase a blend of innovative design and functionality, redefining the travel experience for millions of travelers across America.



RENDERING BY EXP

Atlanta Hartsfield Jackson International Airport; North Terminal Ticketing Hall

Firm: EXP; Associated Architects: Fentress + KAI
Location: Atlanta, Georgia



© JEFF GOLDBERG/ESTO

LaGuardia Airport; Terminal B

Firm: HOK
Location: New York, New York



RENDERING BY FGP ATELIER

Aeropuerto Internacional Felipe Angeles

Firm: FGP Atelier
Location: Mexico City, Mexico



RENDERING BY O'KELLY KASPRAK

Midway International Airport, O'Hare International Airport, and Elsewhere; Hospitality Spaces

Firm: O'Kelly Kasprak
Location: Chicago, Illinois



DMAC ARCHITECTURE & INTERIORS

Denver International Airport and Ronald Reagan National Airport; American Airlines Admirals Clubs

Firm: DMAC Architecture & Interiors
Location: Denver, Colorado, and Washington, DC



@KENDALL MCCAUGHERTY, HALL+MERRICK+MCCAUGHERTY PHOTOGRAPHY*

O'Hare International Airport; Multi Modal Terminal

Firm: Ross Barney Architects
Location: Chicago, Illinois



RENDERING BY EXP

FAA Air Traffic Control Towers; Various Airports: Grand Rapids, Grand Forks, El Paso, Des Moines, Peoria, Duluth, Greenville-Spartanburg

Firm: EXP



NIC LEHOUX

O'Hare International Airport; Terminal 5 Extension

Firm: Muller & Muller Ltd. (M2) and HOK
Location: Chicago, Illinois



PETER MCCULLOUGH

Gerald R. Ford International Airport; Project Elevate: Concourse A Expansion

Firm: HKS
Location: Grand Rapids, Michigan



© KURT GRIESBACH, COURTESY OF CORGAN

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport; Terminal 4 South I Concourse

Firm: SmithGroup/Corgan
Location: Phoenix, Arizona



GENSLER WITH MOODY NOLAN

John Glenn Columbus International Airport; New Terminal Program

Firm: Gensler with Moody Nolan
Location: Columbus, Ohio

Based on responses to a call for projects posted in AIA Chicago's December and January eNews

consumption by cutting back on the amount of time airplanes spend taxiing and idling. This helped LaGuardia Airport become the world's first airport to earn LEED v4 Gold certification.

Ruggiero hopes this is a sign of things to come for airports around the world. When asked about the future of aviation design, he challenged architects and airport officials to think sustainably, pointing to a “disconnect” between the size of modern terminals and the amount of space taken up by airplanes. By his estimate, it takes roughly an acre of gate space to queue up an average flight prior to boarding. “In a sense of sustainability and use of our limited resources, how do we build smaller and smarter?” he wondered.

AIA Chicago’s 2023 Design Excellence Award jury took note. For its part in challenging the status quo, HOK was awarded the Honor Award in the Architecture Extra Large category for the design of Terminal B — the highest honor bestowed by the Chicago chapter for a firm’s work. Ruggiero and his team received their award at Designight last fall.

In offering feedback about the project, one juror commented, “There is a spirit of experimentation to be found in the spaces and bridges that reminds me of the earliest modern airports. The transformation of LaGuardia from a *Saturday Night Live* skit to this international marvel is such a powerful statement about the value of design.” **CA**

In a full circle moment for one of America’s early commercial airports, LaGuardia is marking yet another first: It’s the first new major airport built in the United States in the last 25 years. The Chicago office of HOK contributed professional advisory services to “A Whole New LGA” and led the design of Terminal B.



RENDERING COURTESY OF HOK



©JEFF GOLDBERG/ESTO



Do Your Windows Speak French?

Since 2005, Chicago’s proven source for interior, exterior and now impact-rated custom steel doors & windows. *Oh, and thermally-broken wine rooms.*



Holly H. Scardino
 Director of Sales
 BonJour@frenchsteel.com
 www.frenchsteel.com



importers of fine cork flooring & wall coverings

www.amcork.com 1-888-955-CORK (2675)

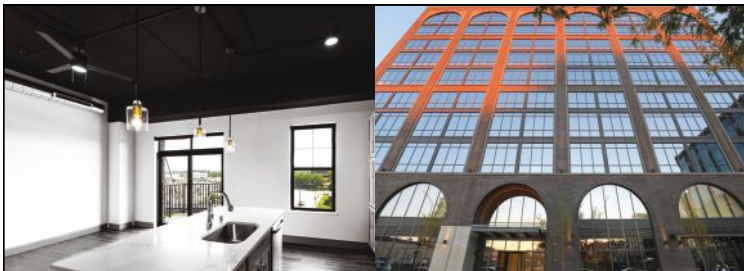
Taft/

The Modern Law Firm.

Our Real Estate team assists clients with:

- Zoning & Building Code Compliance.
- Landmark Designations.
- Adaptive Reuse.

Taftlaw.com



PROUD PARTNER IN PROVIDING ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL PRECAST SOLUTIONS.

MID-STATES CONCRETE INDUSTRIES
500 South Park Avenue,
South Beloit, IL 61080
800.236.1072
msprecast.com

INTERNATIONAL CONCRETE PRODUCTS
N104 W13561 Donges Bay Road,
Germantown, WI 53022
262.242.7840
internationalconcrete.com



Contact us today!
(312) 588-6953
(630) 440-4332
jack@windfree.us
or go to:
www.windfree.us



**CALL FOR A
FREE EVALUATION
TODAY!**



Grant Uhler, FAIA, photographed at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab for *Chicago Architect*.
© EVENING CUE LLC

BEHIND THE SCREENS

Name
Grant C. Uhler

**Affiliations/
Credentials**
FAIA, NCARB,
LEED AP BD+C

Title
Principal,
Global Director of
Large Projects

Company
Gensler

Degree(s)
Bachelor of
Architecture,
cum laude,
Iowa State
University;
Architecture/
Urban Studies,
University of
Bath, England;
Bachelor of Arts,
Architecture, Iowa
State University

Where do you find inspiration?

I find inspiration in nature, travel, family, and the urban environment. The beauty, peace, calm, and the vastness and variety of nature invigorate my soul and help me to recenter.

In my Gensler leadership role, I travel globally. Since my time working in China and living in Shanghai, I have been inspired by and curious about various peoples, cultures, and customs throughout the world. These vast and varied global experiences provide inspiration, deep appreciation, and collectively contribute to who I am as a person, an architect, a leader, and a spouse and father.

Experiencing and interacting with the diversity of global urban environments inspires me. Visiting new places — watching and experiencing a new or “unknown to me” environment — is exhilarating.

What gets you out of bed in the morning?

This morning, it was the “opportunity” to shovel snow. But on a typical morning, as I make the bed, I often think about the opportunity to make a difference, to learn,

AIA Chicago and AIA Chicago Foundation Involvement
President, AIA Chicago Foundation, 2016-2017
Vice President, AIA Chicago Foundation, 2015-2016
Treasurer, AIA Chicago Foundation, 2012-2014
President, AIA Chicago, 2009
Board Member, AIA Chicago, 2005-2010
First Vice President/President-Elect, AIA Chicago, 2008
Executive Committee/Finance Committee, AIA Chicago, 2007-2010
Vice President – Sponsorship, AIA Chicago, 2006-2007
Director, AIA Chicago, 2005-2006

and to lead (like making fresh tracks in the new-fallen snow). I look forward to the day ahead, the conversations, the collaborations, and the excitement of what the day will bring. I reflect on my role as a leader, a father, a partner, a son, a brother, a neighbor, and a friend. On occasionally challenging days, I strive to find the upside. What will I learn? What can I teach? What will I bring to the solution? Celebrating the collective successes of the client, the project, and the team is uplifting. Finding optimism in the unknown, the difficulty, the ability to overcome, to achieve success, to learn, and to share. I enjoy my home-to-office daily commute to reflect on these thoughts.

What has been a large challenge or obstacle as an architectural professional and how are you working to/how have you overcome it?

Several client relationships and project commissions come to mind. The Shanghai Tower was challenging, as the project was a first in many ways. It was a complex program and large scale that involved organizing and leading multicultural teams, managing and delivering within a highly aggressive schedule, navigating numerous government review and client approval processes, the cultural dynamics, languages, customs, and living and working away from family. This all contributed to the experience being both

“Behind the Screens” is a new series developed by AIA Chicago’s Editorial Advisory Committee to highlight the members of the chapter. Throughout the year, this series will showcase Fellows, Architects, Associates, and Affiliate members. If you’d like to nominate someone, please write to editor@aiachicago.org.

challenging, but more importantly, highly rewarding.

In Chicago, my principal role leading the Gensler team, in concert with HDR, on the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab was a remarkable opportunity to design a facility to support a new vision as the first-ever “translational” research hospital. The patient experience and remarkable outcomes that happen at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab are transformative and globally renowned. The opportunity to overcome a challenge, collaborate, and deliver a highly successfully designed flagship facility was uplifting.

Lastly, the repositioning and redevelopment of Chicago’s Old Post Office required a heavy lift by a tremendously talented and diverse team, supporting the city, and a visionary developer, 601W Companies. In my early days at Gensler, I originally became involved in leading the design and managing our team’s efforts working with multiple owners, developers, governmental agencies, etc. in the early 2000s. To have been involved over two decades (and the inherent challenges, numerous obstacles, and fits and starts) and to now see “sleeping beauty” awakened, the success of the Old Post Office is a project success I often refer to when challenged with a new obstacle. Anything is possible!

What is the most effective step you’ve taken in your work or your firm toward a more equitable profession?

In my practice and in my various leadership roles with AIA Chicago and the AIA Chicago Foundation, I have always championed creating more opportunities in

our industry for diverse talent as well as designing for the most inclusive, equitable experience. As president of AIA Chicago in 2009, a focus of my presidency was to promote and advance diversity within the Board of Directors as a foundation to represent the diversity of our membership, of our expertise, and of our communities. At Gensler, I am proud as we continue to lead the industry by example and partnership, defining “5 Strategies to Fight Racism” in 2020 and evolving to spearhead numerous initiatives focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion. On a more local level, I co-sponsored the debut of GAP, the Gensler Apprentice Program, with founder Kelly Westwood in our Chicago office, who developed an idea into a firm-funded proposal creating a unique program that has created a new career path to design beyond the traditional route. Additionally, my participation and involvement in the ACE Mentorship Program over many years supports and encourages equity in the profession today and for the future.

What is the most effective step you’ve taken in your work toward a more sustainable built environment?

From adaptive reuse projects, including the Old Post Office and the Willis Tower in Chicago, to large-scale new construction, sustainable practices have been integral to my portfolio. Shanghai Tower, for instance, achieved LEED Platinum Certification and a China Three Star rating and was the most sustainable supertall building in the world when completed. In fact, Shanghai Tower is being showcased as a best practice example across



© EVENING CUE LLC

the region and globally, including being referenced as a successful project that is informing rewriting of China’s updated building codes.

Gensler frequently partners with organizations, including the AIA, ULI, and the United Nations, on pledges to eliminate carbon emissions in architecture. Our involvement, including our Gensler Co-CEOs participation and presentations at COP28 (Conference of the Parties, the United Nations Climate Change Conference) last fall, is another example. Recently, we debuted Gensler Product Sustainability Standards v1.0, which establishes sustainability performance criteria for the top 12 most-used, high-impact product categories selected for our architecture and interior projects.

Importantly, we’ve recently made this research and program available to the entire U.S. design and construction industry, with a goal of expanding this offering globally.

What is your favorite quote about architecture?

“Architecture is not just about creating beautiful spaces, but about creating meaningful experiences.” —

Julia Morgan

To me, this quote highlights the transformative powers of architecture and design and the role we, as architects and leaders, must inspire to by evoking emotions and fostering lasting connections. CA

➔ **Read the full interview online at www.aiachicago.org/btsgrantuhlr.**

Chicago Architect is published four times a year by Innovative Publishing. Innovative Publishing specializes in association communications and messaging.



Photocopy permissions where necessary, permission is granted by copyright holder for those registered with Copyright Clearance Center (CCC), 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, www.copyright.com to photocopy any article herein for personal or internal reference use only for the flat fee of \$2.00 per copy for each article. Send payment to CCC. Copyright 2024 AIA Chicago.

The information contained within has been obtained by AIA Chicago and Innovative Publishing from sources believed to be reliable. However, because of the possibility of human or mechanical error, AIA Chicago and Innovative Publishing do not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any information and are not responsible for any errors or omissions or for the results obtained from use of such information. The editor reserves the right to censor, revise, edit, reject, or cancel any material not meeting the standards of Chicago Architect. The information and opinions published in Chicago Architect represent the views of the authors and not those of the publisher or AIA Chicago, unless otherwise stated. The acceptance of advertising does not reflect endorsement of products or services by this publication, AIA Chicago, or Innovative Publishing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Chicago Architect gladly accepts all signed, dated letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit for style and any potentially libelous content. Letters should be no longer than 250 words. Submit letters to editor@aiachicago.org.

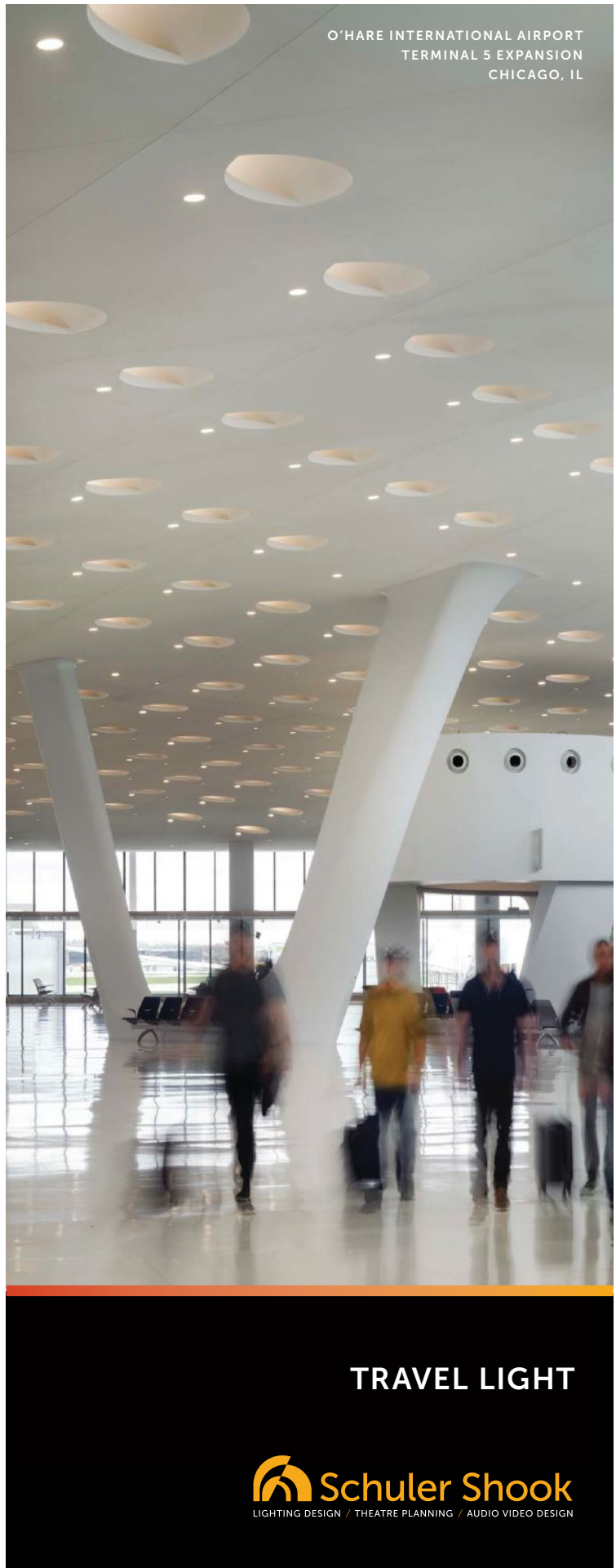
STORY IDEAS AND SUBMISSIONS: Chicago Architect welcomes your story ideas and your written article submissions, whether about your projects or about business trends and issues. Email us at editor@aiachicago.org.

Chicago Architect is printed with zero-VOC ink on 10 percent post-consumer waste stock.

 facebook.com/aiachicago	 youtube.com/@aiachicago1869
 @aiachicago	 linkedin.com/company/aia-chicago
 x.com/aiachicago	

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

AmCork	39
www.amcork.com	
Coastal Construction Products	18
www.coastalone.com	
Equitone US	4
www.equitone.com	
Ex-Cell LLC	18
www.ex-cell.com	
Geothermal Energy Solutions	15
www.geotsolutions.com	
Hanover Architectural Products	10
www.hanoverpavers.com	
Kingspan Insulation	9
www.kingspaninsulation.us	
Mid-States Concrete Industries	39
www.msprecast.com	
Petersen Aluminum Corporation	6
www.pac-clad.com	
Powering Chicago	17
www.poweringchicago.com	
Schuler Shook	43
www.schulershook.com	
Schweiss Doors	15
www.schweissdoors.com	
Sierra Pacific Windows	2
www.sierrapacificwindows.com	
Taft Law Firm	39
www.taftlaw.com	
The French Steel Company LLC	38
www.frenchsteel.com	
The Masonry Advisory Council	14
www.masonryadvisorycouncil.org	
Unilock Chicago	3
www.unilock.com	
Windree Solar	39
www.windfree.us	



O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TERMINAL 5 EXPANSION
CHICAGO, IL

TRAVEL LIGHT





35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 250
Chicago, IL 60601

WE'RE
innovative

PUT SOMETHING SPECIAL
ON YOUR COFFEE TABLE.

Innovative will create a custom publication to celebrate
your anniversary or milestone.



844.423.7272 | advertise@innovativepublishing.com | www.innovativepublishing.com